

Application No. 09/996,161

RXSD 1022-1

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to generate an electrical signal and then to output the electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:

- a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
- b) executing the computer program on the computer including providing a digital stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the audible range of humans;
- c) ~~generating a stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, the stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the audible range of humans; and~~
- d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a larger number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus than would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus having~~ has an amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.

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6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus~~, wherein the first sub-stimulus includes a Warble tone.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus~~, wherein the second sub-stimulus includes a dithering signal.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus~~, wherein the second sub-stimulus includes white noise.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus~~, wherein the second sub-stimulus includes pink noise.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including:

- e) sending first data to the server based on said input;
- f) qualifying the hearing of the user using a routine executed at the server; and
- g) sending second data to the computer based on said qualifying.

11. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:

- a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
- b) executing the computer program on the computer including providing a digital stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the frequency range of the hearing test;

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- c) generating a stimulus ~~using the digital stimulus signal, the stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the frequency range of the hearing test;~~
and
- d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a larger number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus than would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus having~~ has an amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, wherein the first sub-stimulus includes a Warble tone.~~

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, wherein the second sub-stimulus includes a dithering signal.~~

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18. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, wherein the second sub-stimulus includes white noise.~~

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, wherein the second sub-stimulus includes pink noise.~~

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further including:

- e) sending first data to the server based on said input;
- f) qualifying the hearing of the user using a routine executed at the server; and
- g) sending second data to the computer based on said qualifying.

21. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that, when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a user by:

- a) setting the volume control of the computer;
- b) providing a digital stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the audible range of humans;
- cb) generating a stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, the stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the audible range of humans; and
- de) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

22. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 21, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus having has an amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.~~

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23. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 21, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the first sub-stimulus includes a Warble tone.

24. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 21, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the second sub-stimulus includes a dithering signal.

25. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 21, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the second sub-stimulus includes white noise.

26. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 21, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the second sub-stimulus includes pink noise.

27. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that, when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a user by:

- a) setting the volume control of the computer;
- b) providing a digital stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the frequency range of the hearing test;
- c) generating a stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, ~~the stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the frequency range of humans;~~
- d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

28. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a larger number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus than would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

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29. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein ~~the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ the first sub-stimulus ~~having~~ has an amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.

30. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the first sub-stimulus includes a Warble tone.

31. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the second sub-stimulus includes a dithered signal.

32. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the second sub-stimulus includes white noise.

33. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, ~~wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus having a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-stimulus,~~ wherein the second sub-stimulus includes pink noise.

34. (new) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a larger number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus than would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

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